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THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I believe primarily the housing of the poor in any part of a particular area or town or village is the responsibility of the local body concerned and also of the beneficent public living in that area. So far as Madras City is concerned, various things have been done, are being done and will be done. Last year I made an inspection of the Rayapuram area and I suggested the building of a dormitory at cheap cost so that the houseless poor may have a temporary abode for sleeping at night. Further the Housing Committee is going into the matter and Government will take action on receipt of their recommendations."

Jay walking in Sembiem area.

* 194 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether any people were arrested and prosecuted for jay walking in the Sembiam area, recently incorporated with the Madras Corporation;

(b) if so, how many prosecutions for the alleged offence have been made since the last four months and what are the sentences given by the Magistrate, in each case and who were accused in each case;

(c) whether there are foot-paths in the area for the pedestrians to walk avoiding the roads;

(d) whether there have been any complaint of rudeness by the Police and vexatious prosecution;

(e) whether the Government will have any scheme under consideration to stop prosecutions for such alleged offences in the said area pending construction of foot-paths; and

(f) in the meanwhile whether the Government propose to refund any fines imposed?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) & (b) Recently 283 jay walkers on the Paper Mills Road, Sembiam, were prosecuted. The fines imposed were Re. 1 in most cases and and Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 in other cases. The offenders belonged to all classes.

" (c) Yes. There are pavements on either side of the road.

" (d) No.

" (e) & (f) Do not arise as pavements already exist. Warnings are given in general and only those pedestrians who persist are charged."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Government to ask the Police to satisfy themselves first that the footpaths are in a fit state for people to walk before they prosecute them? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I would ask the hon. Member to try to experiment it himself."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I have tried, but only I have not been prosecuted."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Opinions on matters like this differ according to feelings and temperaments and change with persons."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are Government aware that footpaths in the city are only footpaths in name and they are not kept either in a sanitary condition or in a fit state, especially during the rainy season?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I may agree they are not in an ideal condition; some are bad, some are indifferent and some others are in a tolerably good condition."

Welfare unions started by the planters of the Anamalais and the Nilgiris.

* 195 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Welfare Unions started by the Planters in Anamalais and Nilgiris have been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act; and

(b) whether the Government are satisfied that these Welfare Unions organized by the planters are genuine, bona fide voluntary organizations of the plantation workers?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Industries) :—" (a) The following three unions of workers in plantations have been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act:—

(1) The Estate Staffs Union of South India, Glenview, Coonoor, of which Sri N. S. Varadachari, M.L.A., is the President.

(2) The Nilgiris District Estates Workers' Union, Ootacamund, of which Sri R. Raman Nair is the President.

(3) The South India Planters' Labour Union, Valparai, of which Sri P. M. Sheriff is the President.

There is no information whether any of these three unions is a welfare union started by Planters in Anamalais and the Nilgiris.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government issued instructions to the registering authority that before a trade union for a group of workers is registered, that authority should satisfy itself whether there is already a trade union, as otherwise the registration would lead to rivalry between the unions?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I want notice, Sir."